

**OFFICIAL****PATENT RECEIVED  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CENTRAL FAX CENTER****JAN 08 2004**

Applicants:	Butcher, et al.		
Serial No.:	09/904,045	Case No.:	20709
Filed:	July 12, 2001		
For:	RADIOLIGAND AND BINDING ASSAY		
Art Unit: 1641			
Examiner: M. Ceperley			

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**Response to October 20, 2003 Final Rejection**

Sir:

This is in response to the October 20, 2003 Final Rejection, a response to which is due January 20, 2004.

**Remarks**

In the prior April 18, 2003 office action, the Examiner rejected Claims 5-27 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicants responded to this rejection in the July 18, 2003 Response. Since the Examiner did not reject these claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, in the October 20, 2003 final rejection, this rejection appears to have been withdrawn.

The only remaining rejection is that of Claims 5-27 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Baldwin, et al., in combination with each of Chadwick, et al., Fiset, et al., Geonzon, et al., or Duff, et al., and with Dean, et al. The Examiner indicated that Baldwin, et al. describes the non-radiolabeled, sulfonamide compound of formula I of Claim 1, that each of Chadwick, et al., Fiset, et al., Geonzon, et al., and Duff, et al. describe assays that assess the membrane K<sup>+</sup> channel blocking activity of radiolabeled [<sup>3</sup>H] dofetilide, and that Dean, et al. describe use of <sup>35</sup>S-containing sulfonamide groups for sulfonamide-containing ligands used in receptor binding radioassays. Applicants respectfully maintain the presently claimed method would not be obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art based on Baldwin, et al. in combination with each of Chadwick, et al., Fiset, et al., Geonzon, et al., or Duff, et al., and with Dean, et al.